

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Cancelled).

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ An encryption apparatus as claimed in claim 1, for encrypting and transmitting a bit stream of media information which is sent from a transmitting terminal, said encryption apparatus comprising:

means for deciding wherein the type of the bit stream is determined by the number of bits or difficulty in cryptanalysis of the bit stream; and

means for encrypting the bit stream which is decided as longer or more difficult to cryptanalyze than a predetermined criterion by said means for deciding.

Claims 3-6. (Cancelled).

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ An authentication information assignment apparatus as claimed in claim 6, that provides authentication information to a bit stream of media information sent from a transmitting terminal, and sends them, said authentication information assignment apparatus comprising:

means for deciding wherein the type of the bit stream is determined by the number of bits  
or a degree of effect of tampering of the bit stream; and

means for providing the bit stream which is decided as longer or has more effect by the  
tampering by said means for deciding with the authentication information.

Claims 8-10. (Cancelled).

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) An encryption method performed by an encryption  
apparatus for encrypting and transmitting a bit stream of media information which is sent from a  
transmitting terminal, said encryption method comprising the steps of:

deciding ~~[[a type]]~~ the number of bits or difficulty in cryptanalysis of the bit stream; and  
encrypting the bit stream which is decided as longer or more difficult to cryptanalyze  
than a predetermined criterion in accordance with the type of the bit stream decided.

Claims 12 and 13. (Cancelled).

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) An authentication information assignment method  
performed by an authentication information assignment apparatus that provides authentication  
information to a bit stream of media information sent from a transmitting terminal, and sends  
them, said authentication information assignment method comprising the steps of:

deciding ~~[[a type]]~~ the number of bits or a degree of effect of tampering of the bit stream;  
and

providing the bit stream which is decided as longer or as more effect by the tampering by  
said means for deciding with the authentication information ~~in accordance with the type of the~~  
~~bit stream decided.~~

Claims 15-17. (Cancelled).